P 75
july-
august
2005

WITCH

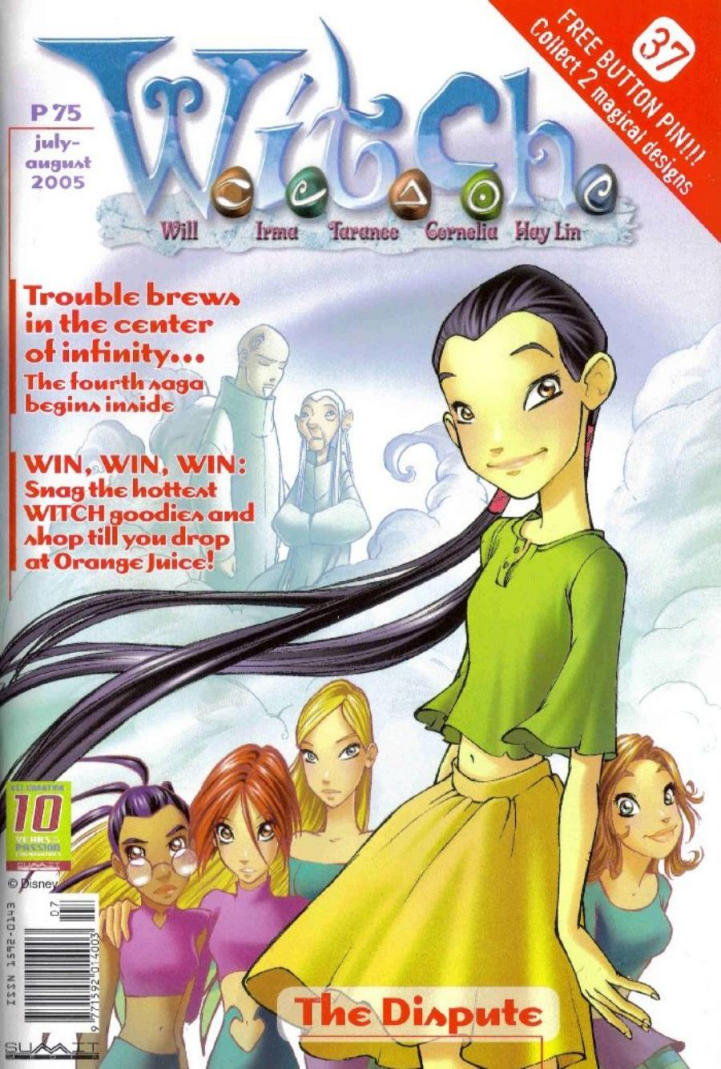
Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

37

FREE BUTTON PIN!!!
Collect 2 magical designs

Trouble brews in the center of infinity...
The fourth saga begins inside

WIN, WIN, WIN:
Snag the hottest WITCH goodies and shop till you drop at Orange Juice!



10 YEARS PASSION

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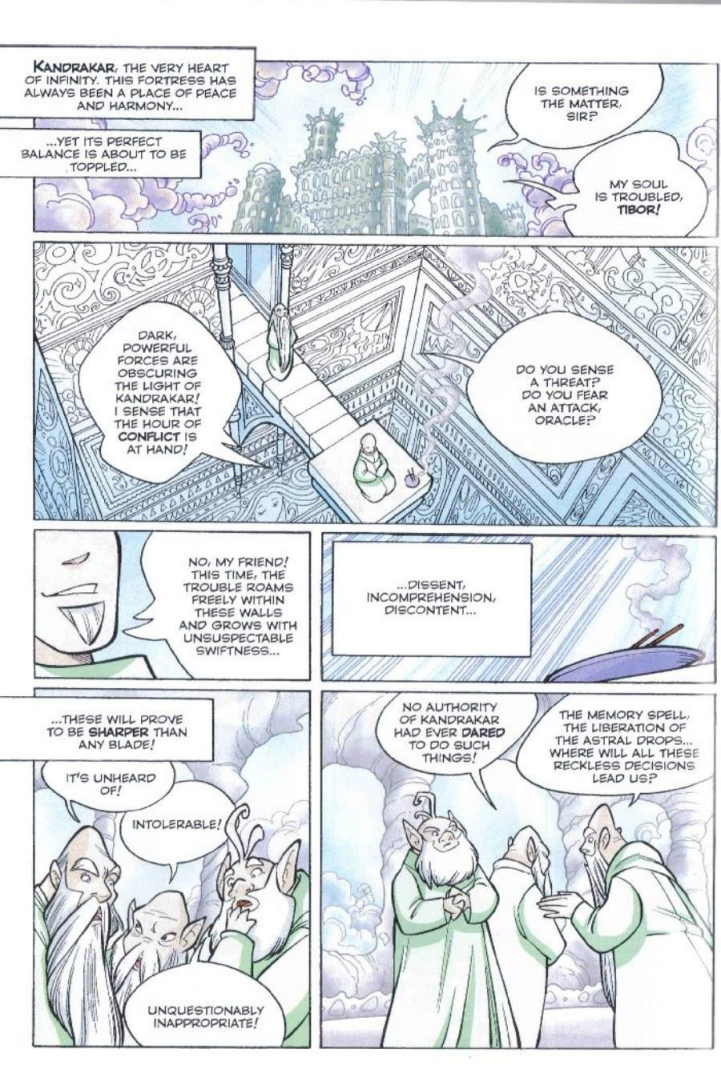
The Dispute

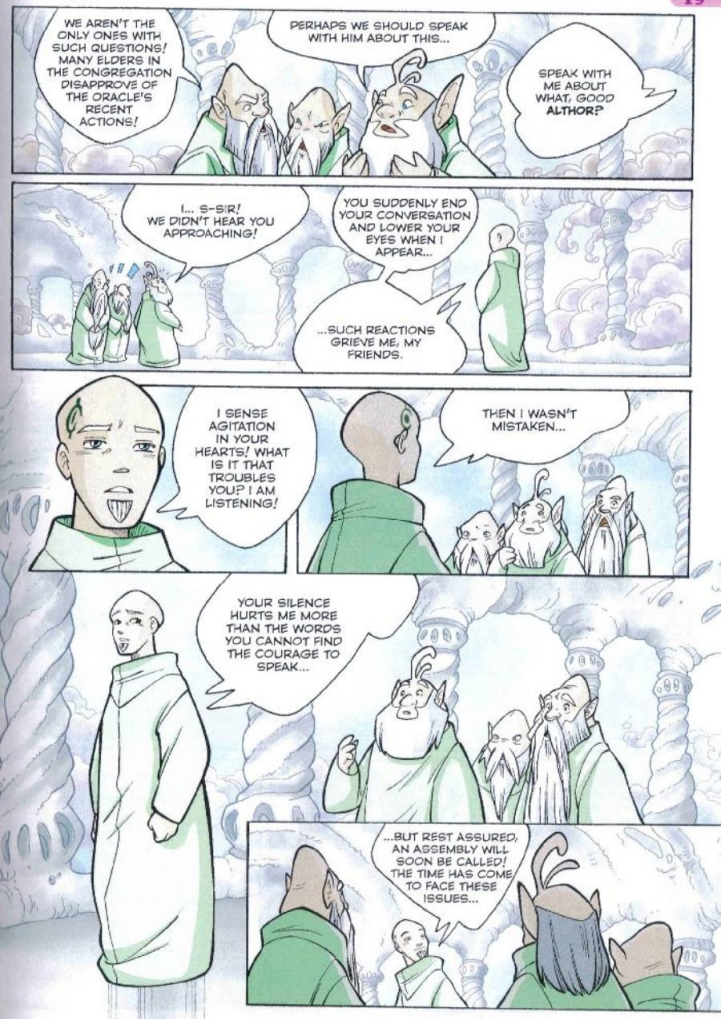
SUMMIT

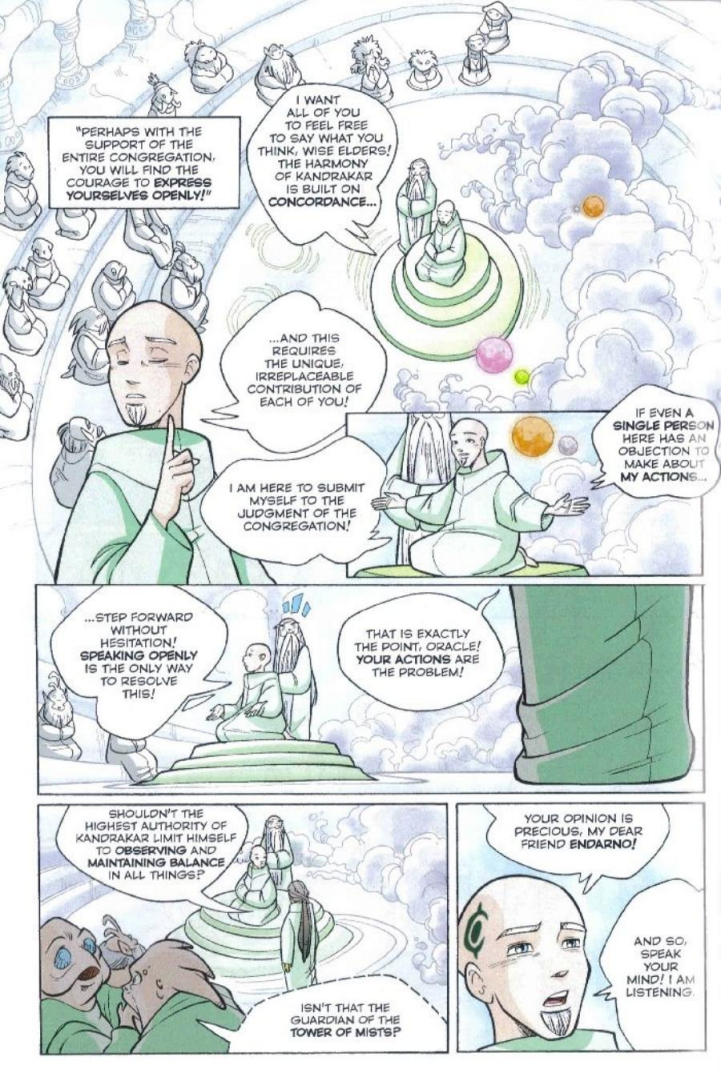
The Dispute

"The time for words is over, Oracle! The Council demands facts!"

CROAK! CROAK! IT'S SEVEN THIRTY!
OH GOSH! I'M REALLY LATE! WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHY YOU DIDN'T GO OFF EARLIER?
Actually, I did! This is the third time I've...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I'VE GOT A TEST IN MY FIRST SUBJECT TODAY!
GOOD MORNING, MISS WILL! YOUR MOTHER LEFT YOU A NOTE: SHE HAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AND...
Hi, honey! Mom
DON'T TELL ME... I WAS OUT LIKE A LIGHT, HUH?! I JUST OPENED MY EYES AND I'M ALREADY EXHAUSTED!
THERE ARE DAYS WHEN YOU SIMPLY WAKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED...
GOTCHA... GULP! ONCE AGAIN, SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TIME SHE'LL BE GETTING HOME!
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO GO WRONG...
RATS! TODAY JUST ISN'T MY DAY!
PLIC
WISSSH
...AND ANY LITTLE THING CAN TURN OUT TO BE THE STRAW THAT BREAKS THE CAMEL'S BACK.


KANDRAKAR, THE VERY HEART OF INFINITY. THIS FORTRESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE OF PEACE AND HARMONY...
...YET ITS PERFECT BALANCE IS ABOUT TO BE TOPPLED...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, SIR?
MY SOUL IS TROUBLED, TIBOR!
DARK, POWERFUL FORCES ARE OBSCURING THE LIGHT OF KANDRAKAR! I SENSE THAT THE HOUR OF CONFLICT IS AT HAND!
DO YOU SENSE A THREAT? DO YOU FEAR AN ATTACK, ORACLE?
NO, MY FRIEND! THIS TIME, THE TROUBLE ROAMS FREELY WITHIN THESE WALLS AND GROWS WITH UNSUSPECTABLE SWIFTNESS...
...DISSENT, INCOMPREHENSION, DISCONTENT...
...THESE WILL PROVE TO BE SHARPER THAN ANY BLADE!
IT'S UNHEARD OF!
INTOLERABLE!
UNQUESTIONABLY INAPPROPRIATE!
NO AUTHORITY OF KANDRAKAR HAD EVER DARED TO DO SUCH THINGS!
THE MEMORY SPELL, THE LIBERATION OF THE ASTRAL DROPS... WHERE WILL ALL THESE RECKLESS DECISIONS LEAD US?

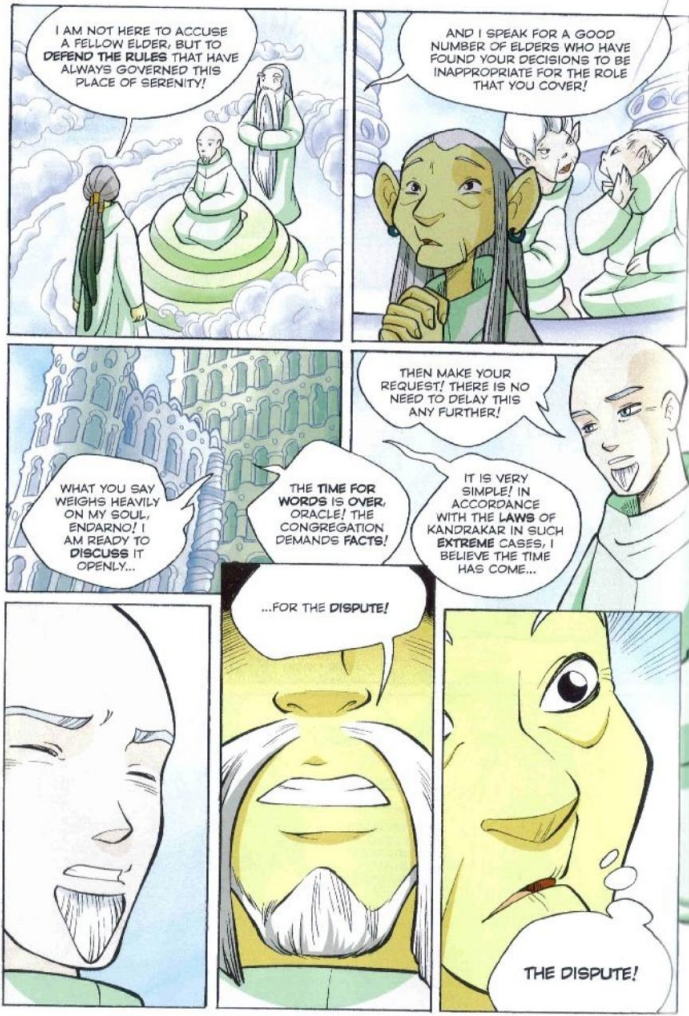

WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WITH SUCH QUESTIONS! MANY ELDERS IN THE CONGREGATION DISAPPROVE OF THE ORACLE'S RECENT ACTIONS!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD SPEAK WITH HIM ABOUT THIS...
SPEAK WITH ME ABOUT WHAT, GOOD ALTHOR?
I... S-SIR! WE DIDN'T HEAR YOU APPROACHING!
YOU SUDDENLY END YOUR CONVERSATION AND LOWER YOUR EYES WHEN I APPEAR...
...SUCH REACTIONS GRIEVE ME, MY FRIENDS.
I SENSE AGITATION IN YOUR HEARTS! WHAT IS IT THAT TROUBLES YOU? I AM LISTENING!
THEN I WASN'T MISTAKEN...
YOUR SILENCE HURTS ME MORE THAN THE WORDS YOU CANNOT FIND THE COURAGE TO SPEAK...
...BUT REST ASSURED, AN ASSEMBLY WILL SOON BE CALLED! THE TIME HAS COME TO FACE THESE ISSUES...

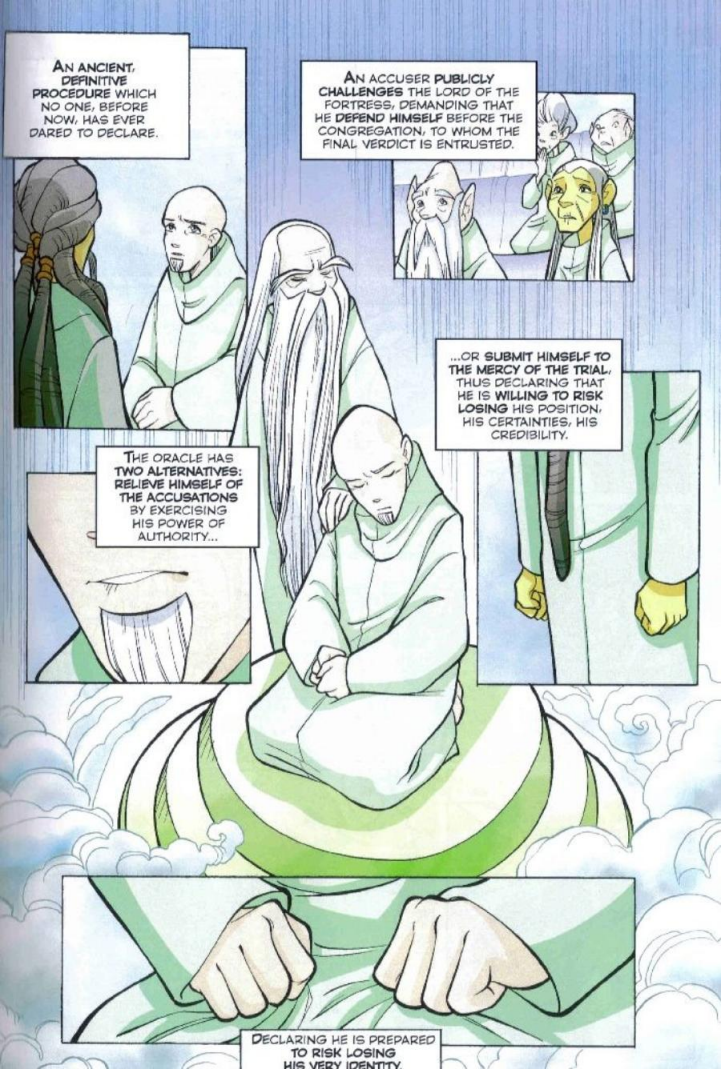

"PERHAPS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION, YOU WILL FIND THE COURAGE TO EXPRESS YOURSELVES OPENLY!"
I WANT ALL OF YOU TO FEEL FREE TO SAY WHAT YOU THINK, WISE ELDERS! THE HARMONY OF KANDRAKAR IS BUILT ON CONCORDANCE...
...AND THIS REQUIRES THE UNIQUE, IRREPLACEABLE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH OF YOU!
I AM HERE TO SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE JUDGMENT OF THE CONGREGATION!
IF EVEN A SINGLE PERSON HERE HAS AN OBJECTION TO MAKE ABOUT MY ACTIONS...
...STEP FORWARD WITHOUT HESITATION! SPEAKING OPENLY IS THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE THIS!
THAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT, ORACLE! YOUR ACTIONS ARE THE PROBLEM!
SHOULDN'T THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF KANDRAKAR LIMIT HIMSELF TO OBSERVING AND MAINTAINING BALANCE IN ALL THINGS?
ISN'T THAT THE GUARDIAN OF THE TOWER OF MISTS?
YOUR OPINION IS PRECIOUS, MY DEAR FRIEND ENDARNO!
AND SO, SPEAK YOUR MIND! I AM LISTENING.

I'M LISTENING, WILL! WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
YAWN! THAT I'M INCREDIBLY TIRED, CORNELIA! LIKE I JUST FINISHED SWIMMING SIXTY LAPS IN THE POOL!
YOU'RE TELLING ME! I ALMOST FELL ASLEEP ON MY BOOKS LAST NIGHT!
UM... ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T LOOK SO BRIGHT-EYED THIS MORNING!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! AT LEAST I KNOW HOW TO TUCK IN THE TAG OF MY TEE!
HUH?
GUYS!
HEY! YOU BOTH SEEM TO BE IN GREAT SHAPE TODAY!
GIVE US A BREAK, IRMA! WE'RE NOT IN THE MOOD...
YEAH... ESPECIALLY WITH A MATH TEST COMING UP...
AHA! NOW I SEE WHY YOU'VE GOT SUCH LONG FACES...
...YOU WERE IMITATING HORSE-FACE HORSEBERG, WEREN'T YOU?
VERY GOOD, MISS LAIR! HAVE YOU JOINED THE DRAMA CLUB, BY ANY CHANCE?

BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE, I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED TO MEMORIZE THE SCRIPT OF THE MASTERPIECE, "EUCLIDIAN THEORY."
DRIIIINNNG
UH... ER...
YOU'RE A LUCKY GIRL! I HAVE A FAR MORE PRESSING COMMITMENT RIGHT NOW WITH YOUR FRIENDS! BUT NO ONE ESCAPES HORSEBERG, YOUNG LADY!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A GREAT LESSON...
YEAH! PURE JOY!
WILL!
MATT!
SEE YOU AROUND LATER ON, OKAY?
THE NERVE! FIRST HE CALLS ME JUST BECAUSE HE'S LOOKING FOR ORUBE... AND THEN HE ACTS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!*
*AS READERS OF W.I.T.C.H. #36 KNOW.
SBAM
SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY HI. WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?

FAR AWAY, IN A PLACE OUTSIDE OF TIME AND SPACE, SOMEONE ELSE IS IN NEED OF ANSWERS...
THE LAWS OF KANDRAKAR DO NOT ALLOW FOR EXCEPTIONS, ORACLE! AND THOUGH IT PAINS ME TO HAVE TO POINT THIS OUT...
...YOU HAVE BROKEN ITS LAWS!
DETACHMENT! BALANCE! OBSERVATION! THESE ARE THE TASKS OF THE ORACLE!
YOU'VE OVERSTEPPED YOUR LIMITS AND INTERFERED WITH EVENTS!
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I RESPECT YOU, ENDARNO! YOU'RE A FAIR AND LOYAL WARRIOR, AND...
...I'M NOT THROUGH YET, ORACLE!
HE INTERRUPTED THE LORD OF KANDRAKAR! WHAT IMPUDENCE!


I AM NOT HERE TO ACCUSE A FELLOW ELDER, BUT TO **DEFEND THE RULES** THAT HAVE ALWAYS GOVERNED THIS PLACE OF SERENITY!
AND I SPEAK FOR A GOOD NUMBER OF ELDERS WHO HAVE FOUND YOUR DECISIONS TO BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE ROLE THAT YOU COVER!
THEN MAKE YOUR REQUEST! THERE IS NO NEED TO DELAY THIS ANY FURTHER!
WHAT YOU SAY WEIGHS HEAVILY ON MY SOUL, ENDARNO! I AM READY TO **DISCUSS** IT OPENLY...
THE **TIME FOR WORDS** IS **OVER**, ORACLE! THE CONGREGATION DEMANDS **FACTS**!
IT IS VERY SIMPLE! IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE **LAWS** OF KANDRAKAR IN SUCH **EXTREME** CASES, I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME...
...FOR THE **DISPUTE**!
THE DISPUTE!


An ancient, definitive procedure which no one, before now, has ever dared to declare.
An accuser publicly challenges the lord of the fortress, demanding that he defend himself before the congregation, to whom the final verdict is entrusted.
...or submit himself to the mercy of the trial, thus declaring that he is willing to risk losing his position, his certainties, his credibility.
The oracle has two alternatives: relieve himself of the accusations by exercising his power of authority...
Declaring he is prepared to risk losing his very identity.

SO BE IT, ENDARNO! IF THIS IS WHAT THE CONGREGATION WISHES, I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
I COULDN'T THINK OF CONTINUING MY RULE WITHOUT EVERYONE'S TRUST... BUT IT WON'T KEEP ME FROM DEFENDING THE DECISIONS I'VE MADE!
I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE. I HOPE YOU'LL BE STRONG THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS, BECAUSE, FOR THE GOOD OF THE FORTRESS, I HAVE A SOLE DESIRE...
...TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER FIT TO RULE AS LORD OF KANDRAKAR!
AND TO CONVINCE THE CONGREGATION WILL NOT BE MY WORDS, BUT THOSE OF THE ONES CALLED IN TO TESTIFY...
...YOUR CHOSEN ONES, ORACLE!

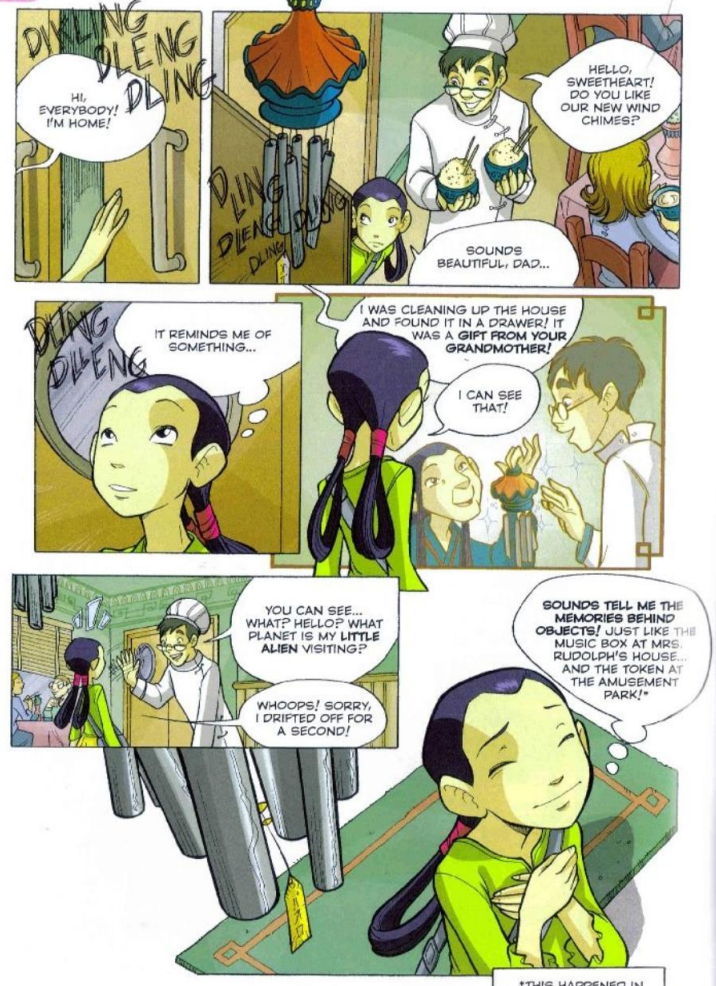
"THE FIVE YOUNG GUARDIANS!"
HEY! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
ORUBE? UM... REBECCA?
THIS IS BECOMING A HABIT!
SHOULDN'T SHE BE AT THE PET SHOP RIGHT NOW?
OH MY GOSH! WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE, SWEETIE!
SHE SOUNDS OVERJOYED! IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
CALL IT "THE AFTERMATH." HORSEBERG'S TEST MADE HER INSANE!
HEY, GUYS! SINCE IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY, WHY DON'T WE ALL GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING TOGETHER?
DON'T GET MAD AT ME, WILL...
...BUT I WAS PLANNING ON SEEING NIGEL, NOW THAT THINGS ARE BETTER BETWEEN US!
I HAVE TO TAKE NAPOLEON TO THE PET SHOP FOR A VACCINATION...
...AND I'VE GOT TO REVIEW MY HISTORY NOTES. COLLINS IS GIVING A QUIZ TOMORROW!
UM, I WROTE DOWN SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO THIS AFTERNOON, TOO...

OH! I FOUND SOME VINTAGE CLOTH FROM THE ATTIC. I WANTED TO MAKE A NEW SKIRT...
PAT
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH ERIC, AREN'T YOU? IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FOREHEAD!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, IRMA?
DON'T LOOK AT ME! I'VE GOT A LONG AFTERNOON OF FORCED LABOR AHEAD OF ME!
IF I DON'T CLEAN MY ROOM, DAD SAYS HE'S CONFISCATING MY STEREO... WITH NO CHANCE OF APPEAL!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, THEN!
YEAH...
POPOOT
HEY, LIL' SIS! HOP IN! I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE HOME!
PETER!

LADIES, ANY OF YOU NEED A RIDE?
UMM, ACTUALLY....
"...WHY NOT?"
GARDEN PLAZA! IT WAS AN HONOR TO ACCOMPANY YOU, MISS HALE!
DON'T MIND PETER! WHEN HE ACTS AS A CHAUFFEUR, HE GETS INTO THE ROLE! YOU OKAY? YOU'VE GOT A STRANGE LOOK...
I... I'M FINE! THANKS FOR THE RIDE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
IT WAS AN HONOR TO ACCOMPANY YOU, MISS HALE!
HE'S SO CUTE!
AND I'M SO DUMB! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

"MY BOOK! I LEFT IT IN THE CAR!"
17.40
HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT ROSEVILLE? IT'S A SPECIAL PLACE NEAR HEATHERFIELD! MY MOM AND I GO THERE ONCE IN A WHILE ON SUNDAY, BUT YOU CAN GET THERE BY BUS, TOO... YOU JUST NEED TO TAKE BUS NUMBER 6, WHICH STOPS RIGHT OUTSIDE THE POOL... OR MAYBE IT'S THE NUMBER 9... I HAVE TO CHECK BACK AT HOME...
WILL...
OH, SPEAKING OF HOME, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE ALL GET TOGETHER AT YOUR PLACE ONE OF THESE DAYS AND REDECORATE MRS. RUDOLPH'S HOUSE? YOU MIGHT NOT SEE IT YET, BUT WITH A BIT OF COLOR, IT'D LOOK LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLACE AND...
WILL...
...I'M SURE HAY LIN HAS LOTS OF IDEAS FOR THE WALLS! AND I COULD LEND YOU POSTERS! BUT DON'T ASK FROM IRMA, UNLESS YOU WANT THE HOUSE PLASTERED WITH KARMILLA IMAGES...
WILL! PLEASE...
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP TALKING SO MUCH?
HUH?
WHAT ON EARTH HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU, ANYWAY?

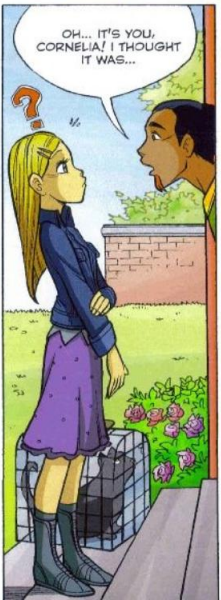
YOU CALL ME UP AT THE SHOP AND ASK ME TO MEET YOU OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL... YOU SOUNDED SO WORRIED! I THOUGHT SOMETHING SERIOUS HAD HAPPENED...
I GET TO OUR APPOINTMENT AND YOU PRETEND YOU HAD NO IDEA I WAS GOING TO SHOW UP, AND NOW... WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
IT'S JUST THAT... THAT I...
I CAN'T... I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF SEEING YOU WITH MATT. THAT'S WHAT IT IS...
I THOUGHT WE COULD ALL HANG OUT TOGETHER! WE'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP IN THAT ASTRAL DROPS ISSUE...
TUNK
...THAT WE ENDED UP NEGLECTING OUR... OUR FRIENDSHIP!
I CAN SEE THAT, BUT I'VE GOT A JOB NOW... AND I HAD TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE TO EXPLAIN WHY I TOOK A FEW HOURS OFF!
I'M SORRY, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GO NOW!
WAIT!
"I'LL GO WITH YOU, OKAY?"


DLING DLENG DLING
HI, EVERYBODY! I'M HOME!
HELLO, SWEETHEART! DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW WIND CHIMES?
SOUNDS BEAUTIFUL, DAD...
DLING DLENG
IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING...
I WAS CLEANING UP THE HOUSE AND FOUND IT IN A DRAWER! IT WAS A GIFT FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER!
I CAN SEE THAT!
YOU CAN SEE... WHAT? HELLO? WHAT PLANET IS MY LITTLE ALIEN VISITING?
WHOOPS! SORRY, I DRIFTED OFF FOR A SECOND!
SOUNDS TELL ME THE MEMORIES BEHIND OBJECTS! JUST LIKE THE MUSIC BOX AT MRS. RUDOLPH'S HOUSE... AND THE TOKEN AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK!*

*THIS HAPPENED IN W.I.T.C.H. 4 AND 11.

DLING DLENG DLING
WOULD YOU GO SEE WHO THAT IS, HONEY? I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL!
HUH? OH, SURE...
DLING DLENG DLING DLING...
HOW STRANGE! THE DOOR IS OPEN, BUT NOBODY'S HERE...
IT MUST'VE BEEN THE WIND...
HAY LIN
LISTEN TO ME DEAR
HEY! THAT'S... THAT'S GRANDMA'S VOICE...
THE AIR IS BRINGING HER VOICE TO ME...
I HAVE A MESSAGE
FOR YOU AND THE GUARDIANS
WOOOSH

COMING!
IT'S PETER! THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!


OH... IT'S YOU, CORNELIA! I THOUGHT IT WAS...

THIS CHRONIC LATECOMER HERE! BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, HUH, JOEL?
HOW'S IT GOING, MAN?

LET ME GUESS! THIS TIME, AN ELEPHANT ON A SURFBOARD CUT YOU OFF ON THE ROAD?
QUIT COMPLAINING, COOK! DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOUR WAIT WAS MUCH OF A DRAG, ANYWAY!
MEOW!
YEAH... A NICE, WARM WELCOME, HUH?

JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, THERE'S A BLOND KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR!
WHO, THAT? SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER'S FRIEND!
CORNELIA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING STANDING THERE? COME ON IN!
HEY, SO NAPOLEON'S HERE, TOO! HI, KITTY!
I... I HAVE TO TAKE HIM OVER TO MR. OLSEN'S FOR HIS VACCINATIONS, REMEMBER?
MEOW!
EVERYTHING OKAY?
YEAH, PEACHY!
"MY LITTLE SISTER'S FRIEND!" THAT'S ALL I AM TO PETER!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT! WHAT THE HECK WAS I EXPECTING, ANYWAY?
YOU'VE COME FOR THIS, I TAKE IT?
CORNELIA? EARTH TO CORNELIA!
HISTORY
HUH? OH, YEAH... THANKS, TARANEE!

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME! IF I DIDN'T HAVE A DATE WITH NIGEL, I'D MAKE YOU SPILL THE BEANS AND...
BEEEP BEEEP
"HELLO?"
TOTAL EMERGENCY! I ONLY HAVE A SECOND AND THE PHONE'S BEING MONITORED!
HELLO, IRMA! I'M HAPPY TO TALK TO YOU, TOO!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES, TARA! I JUST GOT A CALL FROM HAY-HEY...
SHE PASSED ON A MESSAGE SHE GOT FROM GRANDMA YAN LIN... IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON IN KANDRAKAR!
IN KANDRAKAR? WHAT DID SHE...
KNOK KNOK
UM... I'VE GOT TO GO! MEGA-MEETING AT THE PARK IN HALF AN HOUR!

CLUNK

THE ORACLE IS SUCH A PAIN! LIKE BREAKING OUR NECKS WAS HIS FAVORITE HOBBY!
USTONK

HIM AND THAT IRRITATING SMILE OF HIS! NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, HE'S GOING TO GET A PIECE OF MY MIND!
BUT... WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LOOKS LIKE NIGEL WILL HAVE TO WAIT, BECAUSE YOU AND I HAVE ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT, CORNELIA...

...AND WE'D BETTER LET WILL KNOW THE BIG NEWS!"
THE ORACLE? THE ORACLE ON TRIAL?
YEAH, I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
IT SEEMS SOME OF THE ELDERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE QUESTIONING HIS BEHAVIOR AND...
WHAT A SURPRISE!

DIDN'T WE TRY A MILLION TIMES TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THAT WE DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY HE INTERFERED IN OUR LIVES?
YOU WERE THE BRAVEST AND MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD OF US ALL!
AND I'LL KEEP BEING THAT, WILL! THE ORACLE HAS TO ACCEPT WE'RE NOT PUPPETS TO PLAY WITH! IT'S TIME TO STOP GIVING US ORDERS AND MAKING DECISIONS WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION!
I THOUGHT IT WAS CLEAR, BUT IT SEEMS THAT IT WASN'T ENOUGH! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF IT... IT'S JUST BURNING ME UP!
NOT EVEN THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF KANDRAKAR CAN AFFORD TO PLAY WITH FIRE!
ER... GUYS?

I DON'T WANT TO BE A **WET BLANKET** ON THIS CHEERY BONFIRE OR ANYTHING, BUT... THERE'S SOMETHING I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT...
SAME HERE!

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO WITH THE ORACLE'S TRIAL? THERE MUST BE SOME REASON WHY HAY LIN'S GRANDMOTHER THOUGHT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT, DON'T YOU THINK?

WELL... WE MIGHT BE CALLED IN TO **TESTIFY!**

TESTIFY? **WAY COOL!** JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES! I CAN ALREADY PICTURE THE SCENE...

MISS LAIR, HOW DO YOU KNOW THE **DEFENDANT**?
OH, PLEASE! IT'S AS THOUGH I WERE HEARING MY MOTHER TALKING!

HEY, YOU COULD ASK HER TO GIVE US A FEW **TIPS**! LIKE WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THEY ASK ME A QUESTION I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER?
DON'T WORRY, IRMA! IT'S NOT LIKE AN ORAL QUIZ OR ANYTHING...

THEY JUST WANT US TO BE OURSELVES AND TO TELL THEM HOW WE REALLY FEEL! GRANDMA PROMISED!
EVEN SO... IT'S A BIG RESPONSIBILITY, HAY LIN! I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY ABOUT IT!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, WILL...
WITHOUT OUR ASTRAL DROPS, EVERY MISSION WILL HAVE TO BE DONE ON THE SLY SOMEHOW!
I WONDER HOW WE'LL MANAGE TO MAKE UP NEW EXCUSES!
CHEER UP, GUYS! AUNTIE IRMA'S ALREADY GOT THE SOLUTION!
OH, REALLY, GENIUS? AND WHAT DID THAT LITTLE OVEN OF A BRAIN BAKE UP THIS TIME?
JUST TELL US, IRMA!
GO ON, LAUGH! BUT IN A SECOND, YOU'LL BE KISSING THE GROUND I WALK ON!
WELL, MY MOM GAVE ME THE THIRD DEGREE. I HAD TO MAKE UP AN IMPORTANT EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY BEING GONE...
...AND MAYBE IT COULD WORK AS A STANDARD ALIBI FOR OUR LAST-MINUTE TRIPS TO KANDRAKAR!
WHAT DID YOU COME UP WITH?
THAT WE STARTED TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK AT THE PET SHOP... WHICH WILL GIVE US EXTRA CREDIT AT SCHOOL!
GOOD GOING!
REALLY NICE!
YEAH. NEAT...
CONGRATULATIONS, MISS BRAINSTORM! I UNDERESTIMATED YOU!

DON'T OVERDO IT ON THE ENTHUSIASM, HAY-HEY! IT MIGHT GET TO MY HEAD...
SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL GUILTY LYING TO MY FOLKS ALL THE TIME...
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE! BESIDES, YOU CERTAINLY AREN'T DOING IT JUST FOR FUN!
I KNOW, BUT... BUT TELLING LIES MAKES ME FEEL REALLY BAD!
ORUBE IS SO LUCKY! SHE DOESN'T HAVE THIS PROBLEM!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE DID YOU LAST SEE HER, WILL?
AT MR. OLSEN'S!
...AND I BET SHE'S WITH MATT RIGHT NOW!
THE VACCINATION! I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT!
ANYBODY WANT TO GO WITH ME?
SURE! I'LL GO...
"GREAT IDEA, WILL! THAT WAY WE CAN HAVE A LITTLE CHAT!"
WE'RE TIRED AND EDGY... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...
HAY LIN'S PARANOID, TARANEE'S FURIOUS... AND NOW WILL'S SO QUIET! WE'RE CHANGING...

"... AND I'VE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT, PRETTY SOON, NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME ANYMORE!"
Olsen's
THERE YOU GO, CUTIE! NOW I'LL PUT YOU BACK IN YOUR CAGE...
CAAAAAGE! CAAAAAGE!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB, REBECCA!
THANKS! TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS MAKES ME HAPPY! I CAN NEVER THANK MR. OLSEN ENOUGH FOR THE TRUST HE'S GIVEN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STOLEN MONEY? SHE SOUNDS SO SINCERE! IF SHE TOOK IT, THERE MUST'VE BEEN A GOOD REASON...
TRUUUUST! TRUUUUST!
HEY THERE, KITTEN! NOW I'LL GIVE YOU A NICE BRUSHING, OKAY?
REBECCA, I...
WELL... THIS IS A BIT DELICATE, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS...
JUST SAY IT, MATT! I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT!
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WILL, RIGHT?
WELL... IN A WAY, IT DOES...
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT, TOO. LATELY SHE'S BEEN SO STRANGE! SOMETHING'S OBVIOUSLY WORRYING HER!

THIS MIGHT SEEM A BIT HARSH, BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT WILL'S UPSET...
...BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED? THE MONEY YOU TOOK FROM THE SHOP'S CASH REGISTER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MATT!
HOW DOES HE KNOW ABOUT IT? THE ASTRAL DROPS TOOK THE CASH, BUT I PUT IT BACK BEFORE MR. OLSEN NOTICED IT WAS GONE!
I CAN ASSURE YOU I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING OF THE KIND! YOU CAN ASK YOUR GRANDPA IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!
NO, I... I'M SORRY! I MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD...
BUT I UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY WELL! WILL COULDN'T HAVE BEEN CLEARER!
WAS SHE REALLY CONVINCED REBECCA WAS GUILTY... OR WAS SHE JUST TRYING TO MAKE REBECCA LOOK BAD?
DRIIIN
MATT, COULD YOU ANSWER THE PHONE, PLEASE? MY HANDS ARE FULL OF KITTENS!
DRIIN DRIIINN
BUT WHY WOULD SHE DO IT? SHE KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THE JOB IS TO REBECCA! SHE WAS EVEN THE ONE WHO LET REBECCA TAKE HER PLACE...
NOW SHE'S ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE, LIKE SHE WAS... JEALOUS!!! OF COURSE! THAT EXPLAINS HOW SHE'S BEEN ACTING LATELY!
DRIIINN DRIIIN
THE PHONE, MATT!

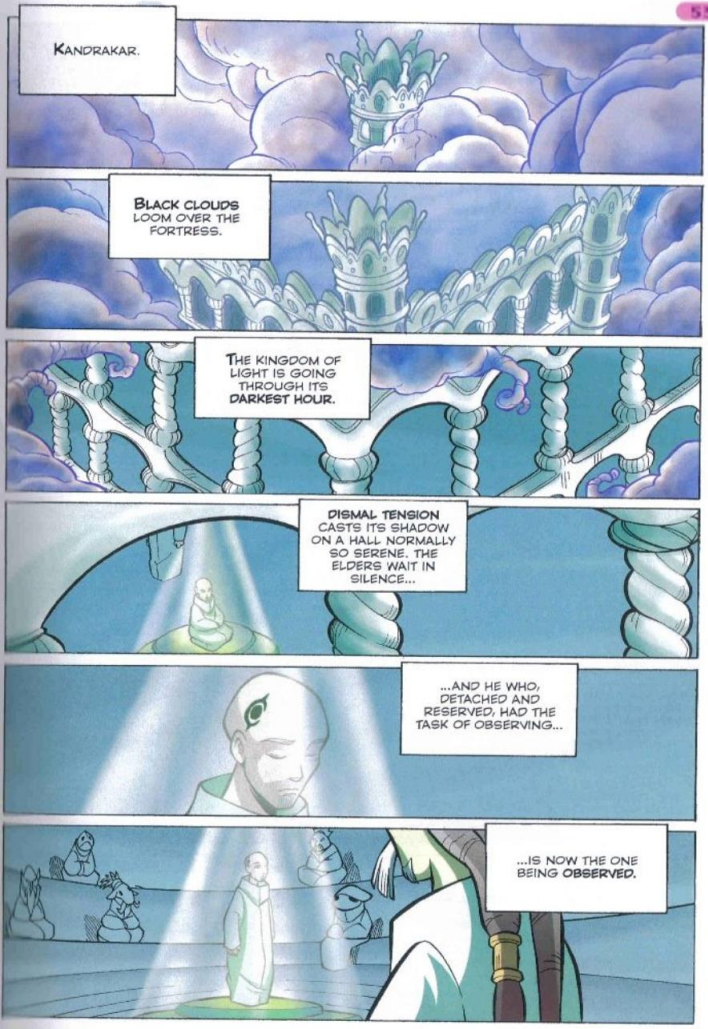
BUT NOTHING COULD JUSTIFY DOING SOMETHING SO MEAN... THAT'S NOT LIKE WILL AT ALL!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO IT MYSELF! HOLD THESE, WOULD YOU?
DRIIIN
DRIIIN
DRIIIINN
DRIIIINN
DRIIIIN
Huh?
Meow!
SCRATCH
OUCH!
DRIIIIN
SATISFIED? THEY'VE HUNG UP!
WHOOPS! I'M... I'M SORRY!
DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
NO, IT'S NOTHING... JUST A LITTLE SCRATCH!
HERE WE ARE, NAPOLEON! NOW TRY TO BE A GOOD KITTY AND...
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG!

WILL!
TRILLNN
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
CORNELIA!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE! OUR LITTLE NAPOLEON! WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU!
SORRY I'M LATE, MR. OLSEN!
NO PROBLEM! WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT INTO THE BACK... AND THIS YOUNG MAN IS COMING WITH US!
HEY!
IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED TO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL INSTEAD OF SPENDING ALL YOUR TIME DISTRACTING MY ASSISTANTS!
IS SOMETHING WRONG? YOU'RE WORRIED...
IT'S WILL! SHE CAME HERE WITH ME, BUT SHE RAN OFF ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE EXPLANATIONS FOR LATER, CORNELIA!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY NEED US IN KANDRAKAR RIGHT NOW!
End of Part One.

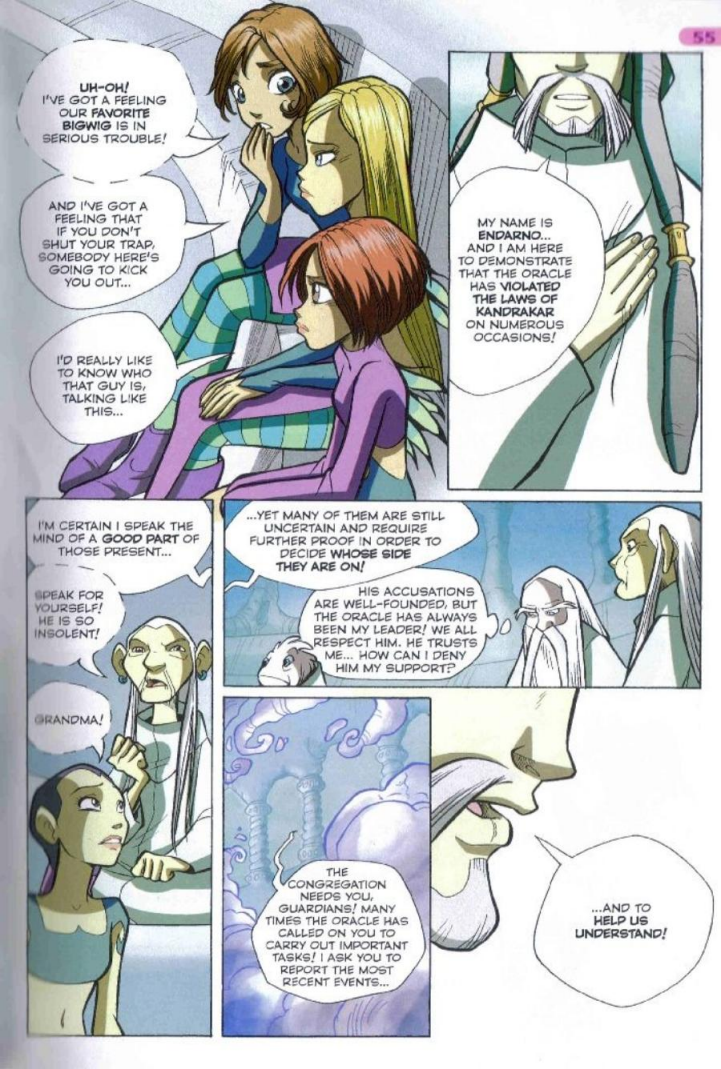
12 ALMOND STREET.
TO MANY, THIS IS SIMPLY THE ADDRESS OF A PET SHOP.
PET
SHOP
BUT TO WILL, THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE FULL OF UNFORGETTABLE EMOTIONS.
JOY.
SORROW.
HOPE.
THE SAME HOPE THAT WAS SHATTERED A MOMENT AGO, AFTER LOOKING THROUGH THE SHOP WINDOW.

MEMORIES RACE THROUGH HER MIND, BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO DWELL ON THEM...
PUFF... PANT!
...BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, A FAR MORE IMPORTANT TASK AWAITS THE GUARDIANS!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL HERE! WE WERE AFRAID YOU'D HAVE LEFT ALREADY!
WE HEARD THE CALL...
...AND CAME BACK HERE TO MEET YOU! IT'S TIME, ISN'T IT?
TAKE A LOOK AT THE HEART! I'VE NEVER SEEN IT SHINE SO BRIGHTLY BEFORE!
LOOKS LIKE WE NEED A CHANGE OF AIR!
THE ORACLE'S IN DEEP WATERS!
OKAY, HEART OF KANDRAKAR, FIRE AWAY!
THE GREATEST GIRLS ON EARTH ARE READY TO ROLL!
ALL RIGHT, GUYS! LET'S STICK TOGETHER... BECAUSE THEY'RE WAITING FOR US OVER IN KANDRAKAR!

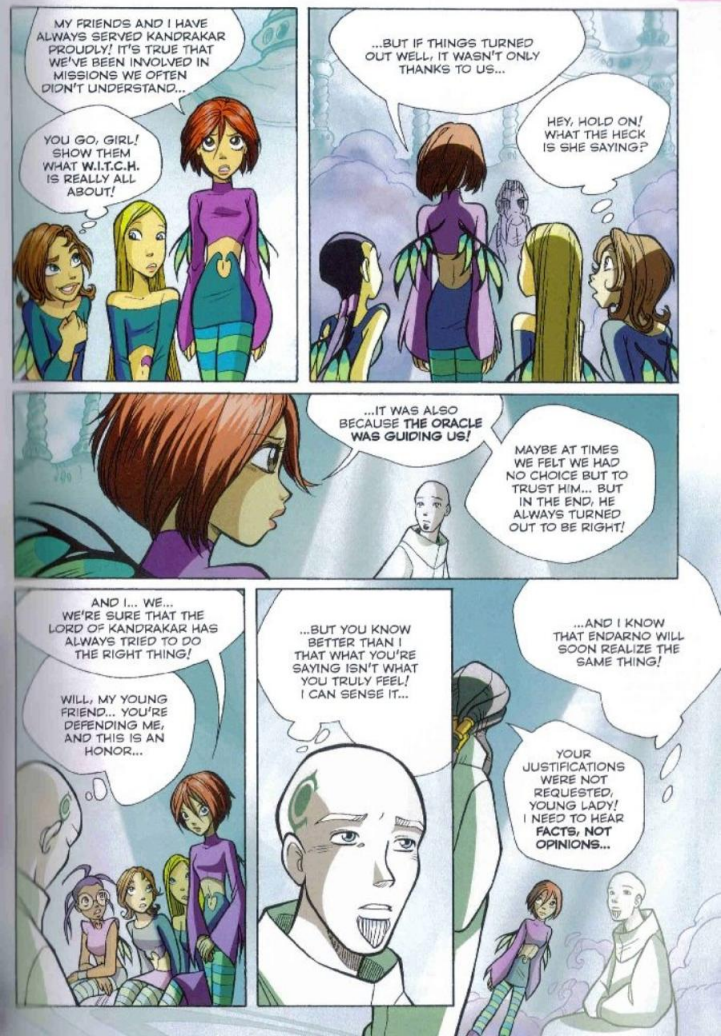
AND SHE LEFT? JUST LIKE THAT?
SHE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THAT SHE HAD SOMETHING TO DO... SHE'LL JUST PICK UP NAPOLEON AS SOON AS SHE CAN!
WILL AND HER FRIENDS COULD MAKE A REAL CONTEST OUT OF BEING STRANGE!
WHAT A SHAME! I HOPE IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS...
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE OUR TEA WITHOUT CORNELIA...
...AND YOU'LL STAY HERE TO KEEP ME COMPANY A LITTLE LONGER, WON'T YOU, LITTLE FELLOW?
MEOW!


KANDRAKAR.
BLACK CLOUDS LOOM OVER THE FORTRESS.
THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT IS GOING THROUGH ITS DARKEST HOUR.
DISMAL TENSION CASTS ITS SHADOW ON A HALL NORMALLY SO SERENE. THE ELDERS WAIT IN SILENCE...
...AND HE WHO, DETACHED AND RESERVED, HAD THE TASK OF OBSERVING...
...IS NOW THE ONE BEING OBSERVED.

SWAAAM
THANK YOU FOR COMING, GUARDIANS! THE CONGREGATION WAS EXPECTING YOU!
IT'S SO DARK! IS THIS A BLIND DATE, OR ARE THEY TRYING TO SAVE ON THE ELECTRICITY BILL?
IRMA!
AWW, COME ON! TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU! WE WERE ONLY AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEY TOTALLY REDECORATED THE WHOLE PLACE!
PLEASE TAKE THE SEATS RESERVED FOR THOSE WHO'LL TESTIFY. YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER IS PRICELESS!
YEAH, PRICELESS AND FREE! WHO KNOWS WHEN THEY'LL DECIDE TO PAY US FOR OVERTIME WORK?
I THINK IT'S A BAD TIME TO ASK! LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE COMPLICATED ENOUGH!
YOU WILL HELP US MAKE A VITAL DECISION THAT WILL IMPACT THE FUTURE OF KANDRAKAR...
...AND OF THE ORACLE!


UH-OH! I'VE GOT A FEELING OUR FAVORITE BIGWIG IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
AND I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT IF YOU DON'T SHUT YOUR TRAP, SOMEBODY HERE'S GOING TO KICK YOU OUT...
I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW WHO THAT GUY IS, TALKING LIKE THIS...
MY NAME IS ENDARNO... AND I AM HERE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ORACLE HAS VIOLATED THE LAWS OF KANDRAKAR ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS!
I'M CERTAIN I SPEAK THE MIND OF A GOOD PART OF THOSE PRESENT...
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF! HE IS SO INSOLENT!
GRANDMA!
...YET MANY OF THEM ARE STILL UNCERTAIN AND REQUIRE FURTHER PROOF IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHOSE SIDE THEY ARE ON!
HIS ACCUSATIONS ARE WELL-FOUNDED, BUT THE ORACLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY LEADER! WE ALL RESPECT HIM. HE TRUSTS ME... HOW CAN I DENY HIM MY SUPPORT?
THE CONGREGATION NEEDS YOU, GUARDIANS! MANY TIMES THE ORACLE HAS CALLED ON YOU TO CARRY OUT IMPORTANT TASKS! I ASK YOU TO REPORT THE MOST RECENT EVENTS...
...AND TO HELP US UNDERSTAND!

THAT BEING SAID, ELDERS OF THE CONGREGATION, I WILL LEAVE THE FLOOR TO THE FIRST WITNESS...
...THE KEEPER OF THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR!
I... I'M READY TO ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS, ENDARNO! BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY...


MY FRIENDS AND I HAVE ALWAYS SERVED KANDRAKAR PROUDLY! IT'S TRUE THAT WE'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN MISSIONS WE OFTEN DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...
YOU GO, GIRL! SHOW THEM WHAT W.I.T.C.H. IS REALLY ALL ABOUT!
...BUT IF THINGS TURNED OUT WELL, IT WASN'T ONLY THANKS TO US...
HEY, HOLD ON! WHAT THE HECK IS SHE SAYING?
...IT WAS ALSO BECAUSE THE ORACLE WAS GUIDING US!
MAYBE AT TIMES WE FELT WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST HIM... BUT IN THE END, HE ALWAYS TURNED OUT TO BE RIGHT!
AND I... WE... WE'RE SURE THAT THE LORD OF KANDRAKAR HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING!
WILL, MY YOUNG FRIEND... YOU'RE DEFENDING ME, AND THIS IS AN HONOR...
...BUT YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ISN'T WHAT YOU TRULY FEEL! I CAN SENSE IT...
...AND I KNOW THAT ENDARNO WILL SOON REALIZE THE SAME THING!
YOUR JUSTIFICATIONS WERE NOT REQUESTED, YOUNG LADY! I NEED TO HEAR FACTS, NOT OPINIONS...

...AND, MOST OF ALL, HONESTY!
IT SEEMS THAT YOU NEED HELP IN REMEMBERING!
SHATZZ
LOOK!
WE'RE SICK AND TIRED OF BEING TREATED LIKE THIS! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR ACTING THIS WAY!
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, WILL?
WITH ALL DU RESPECT, SIR YOU ARE TH PROBLEM!
WELL, GUARDIAN! HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS SCENE? THE SERENE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORACLE'S WISE DECISIONS, OR AN OPEN REBELLION AGAINST HIS AUTHORITY?
SIR, THAT WAS A VERY PARTICULAR SITUATION AND...*
WILL'S RIGHT! SHE... SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO UNDERSTAND! CALEB HAD JUST ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO RETURN TO MERIDIAN AND...
*THIS HAPPENED IN W.I.T.C.H. 23.

...ALL OF A SUDDEN, WE FOUND OUT THAT THE ORACLE ALREADY KNEW EVERYTHING, BUT HE'D DECIDED TO KEEP HIS BIG MOUTH SHUT!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO DO!
OOPS!
HMM... I SEE...
...AND THIS MADE HIM EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR YOU! "UNBEARABLE," TO QUOTE YOUR VERY WORDS! ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
UGH! DID... DID I SAY THAT? I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS IS IRRELEVANT, GUARDIAN! IT IS NOT YOUR CONDUCT THAT IS BEING EXAMINED HERE! WHAT I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING FROM YOU IS...
...HOW DID THE ORACLE RESPOND TO YOUR ACCUSATIONS?
WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH... HE...
...HE DIDN'T RESPOND!

BUT... THAT ALL HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO! SINCE THEN, THINGS... THINGS HAVE CHANGED!
HAVE THEY REALLY, GUARDIAN? IT WOULDN'T SEEM SO...

...JUDGING FROM THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE AT THE END OF YOUR ARHANTA MISSION!*
OH, MAN! THAT AGAIN...
*AS THOSE WHO HAVE READ W.I.T.C.H. 33 WILL UNDERSTAND.

HASN'T ANYONE EVER TOLD THIS GUY ABOUT THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY?
ENDARNO'S LOOKING FOR PROOF TO CONDEMN THE ORACLE... AND IF WE DON'T TELL HIM EVERYTHING, HE'LL JUST FIND IT ON HIS OWN!

AH, I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO GIVE HIM A HAND! ALL THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE REALLY STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES, LIKE WE WERE AT A TRIAL OR SOMETHING!

IRMA... THIS IS A TRIAL!
WELL, AT THE MOVIES THEY WERE A LOT MORE EXCITING!

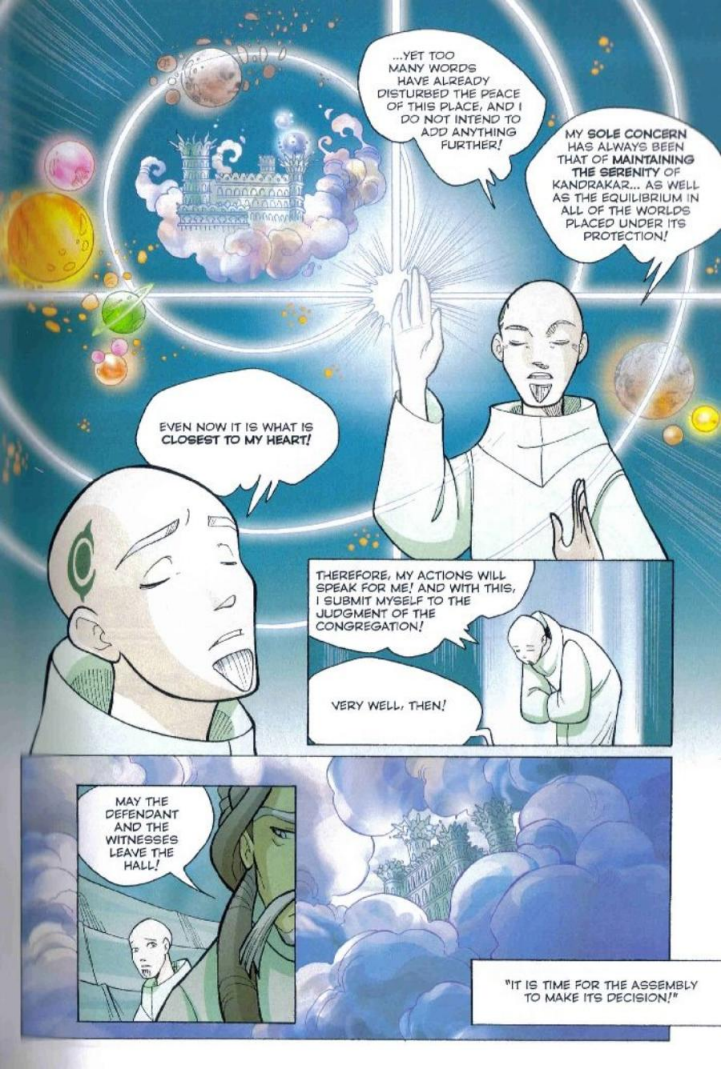
I THINK THE TIME HAS COME TO DO WHAT WE'VE BEEN CALLED IN HERE TO DO!

THAT IS, TO BE OURSELVES AND TELL THEM HOW WE REALLY FEEL... ISN'T THAT WHAT HAY LIN'S GRANDMOTHER SAID?
THE CONGREGATION IS ANXIOUS TO HEAR YOUR TESTIMONIES, GUARDIANS...
IF I DON'T SPEAK UP, I'LL EXPLODE! BUT IF I DO SPEAK UP... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE ORACLE?
...OR MUST I DEDUCE FROM THIS SILENCE THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO ADD?
VERY WELL! IN THAT CASE, I WILL MOVE ON TO...
JUST A MOMENT, SIR!
I... I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY! IT'S... SOMETHING I'VE BEEN FEELING FOR A LONG TIME NOW!
I TRIED TO MAKE IT GO AWAY, TRIED TO SEE IT FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW, BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T MANAGE TO GET RID OF THIS IMPRESSION, THIS NAGGING FEELING...
...THAT I'VE BEEN USED!

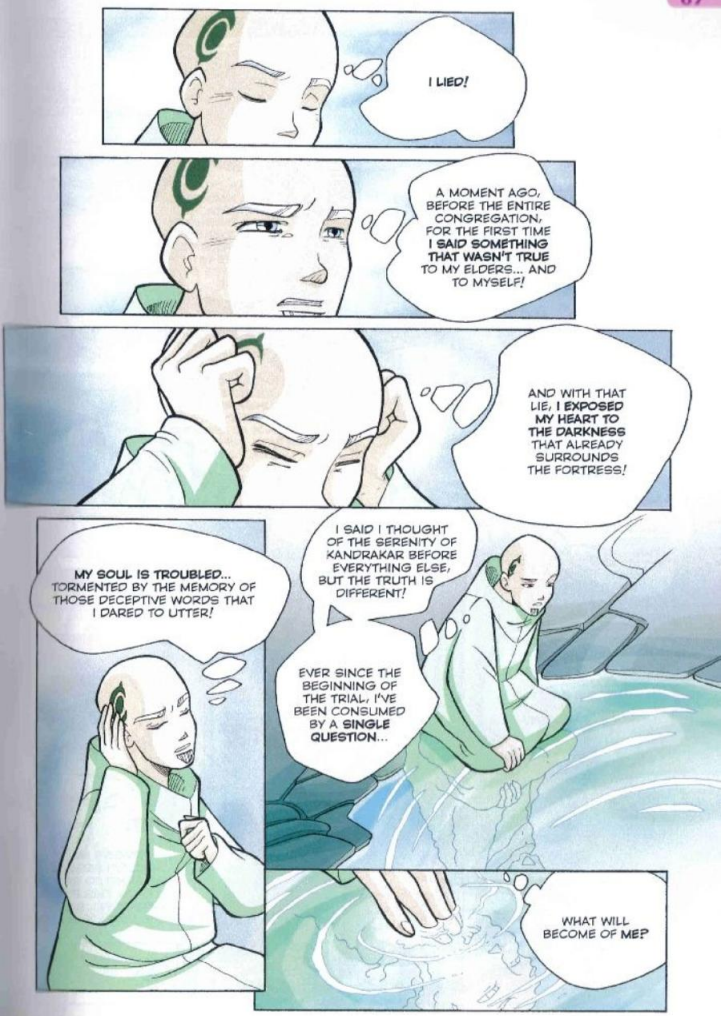
USED BY THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR! IT BARGED INTO OUR LIVES WITHOUT KNOCKING! IT BURDENED US WITH TASKS WE WEREN'T PREPARED TO TAKE ON AND RESPONSIBILITIES WE DIDN'T ASK FOR!
USED BY THE ORACLE! WE WERE PAWNS IN HIS HANDS, AND WHAT DID WE GET IN RETURN? GIFTS WE DIDN'T ASK FOR, AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, ONE THAT WAS EVEN DEBATABLE AS FAR AS GIFTS GO!
AND WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, RIGHT NOW I'M FEELING USED BY YOU, ENDARNO! FORCED TO DEAL WITH A PROBLEM OF A WORLD THAT ISN'T MINE!
TARANEE! I THOUGHT YOUR RESENTMENT TOWARDS ME HAD FADED... YET I WAS MISTAKEN!
"WHY DID YOU KEEP ALL OF THESE FEELINGS INSIDE? WE COULD HAVE DISCUSSED IT..."
"I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ONCE AGAIN THAT, IN THE WORKINGS OF KANDRAKAR, YOU GIRLS HAVE NEVER BEEN PAWNS, BUT INSTRUMENTS..."
"...AND THAT BEING CHOSEN AS GUARDIANS MEANS ACTING IN THE NAME OF THE BALANCE OF ALL THINGS!"
"BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE! YOUR WORDS ARE PROOF OF YOUR GREAT COURAGE AND SINCERITY, BUT ALSO..."

MAN, TARAREE! YOU SURE DIDN'T HOLD BACK!
THIS IS WHAT IS CALLED SPEAKING WITH CONVICTION, MY CHILD!
...A CRUSHING ACCUSATION OF THE ORACLE'S DEEDS, ELDERS OF THE CONGREGATION!
WHILE YOU WERE AT IT, YOU COULD'VE MENTIONED HIS FREEING THE ASTRAL DROPS... A COSMIC PAIN IN THE NECK!
JEEZ! JUST WHEN MY DOUBLE HAD LEARNED HOW TO STUDY MATH AND HANDLE MARTIN!
AN EXCELLENT OBSERVATION, GUARDIAN... THANK YOU FOR THE SUGGESTION!
GOOD GOING! WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE HIM A HAND?
HAY LIN, YOU LOOK UPSET! YOU HAVEN'T SAID A SINGLE WORD!
I... I CAN'T GRANDMA! I JUST DON'T FEEL UP TO IT!
IF YOUR FRIENDS HAVE NO OBJECTIONS...

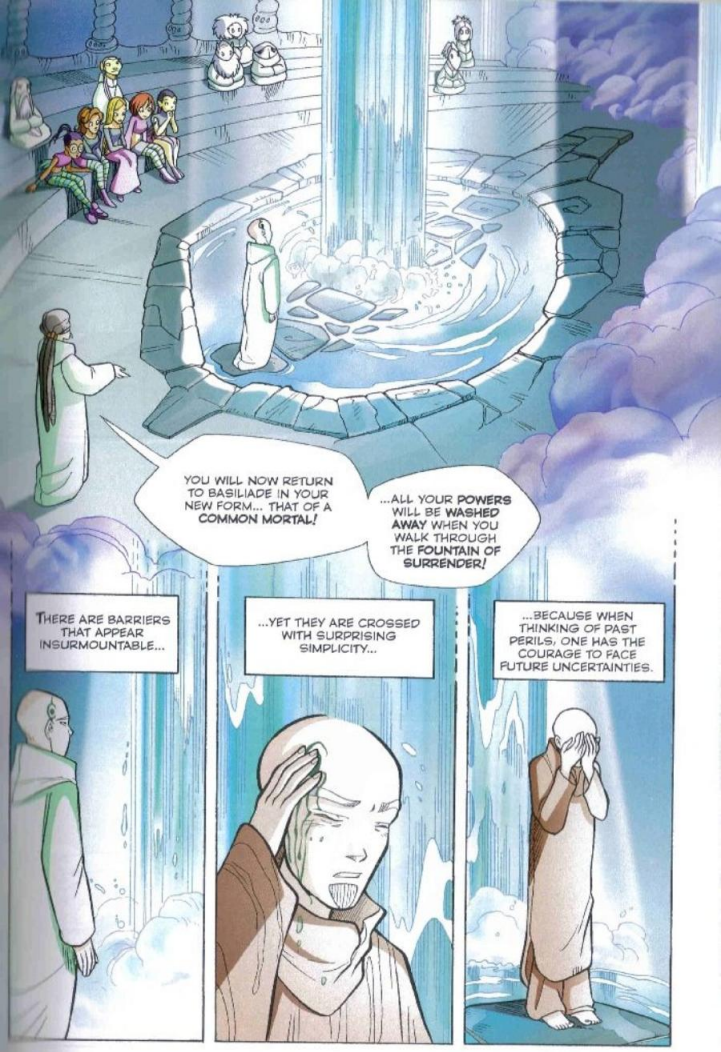
...THEN THE ISSUE OF THE ASTRAL DROPS AND THE MEMORY SPELL ARE THE LAST TWO EPISODES I WISH TO SUBMIT TO THE ASSEMBLY!
TWO OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE ORACLE USED THE POWERS VESTED IN HIM DUE TO HIS POSITION OF AUTHORITY...
...TO RADICALLY CHANGE THE COURSE OF EVENTS!
ORACLE... MY AFFECTION FOR YOU IS UNEQUALLED, BUT HE IS RIGHT! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
I FEEL THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER COMMENTS!
BUT... BUT I THINK THERE IS, SIR!
WE SHOULD LET THE ORACLE SPEAK! DOESN'T A DEFENDANT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEFEND HIMSELF?
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, SWEETHEART! AS YOU WOULD SAY: YAP!
IT IS HIS RIGHT AND HIS DUTY, HAY LIN! I APPRECIATE YOUR COURAGEOUS WORDS! I KNOW IT WASN'T EASY FOR YOU...

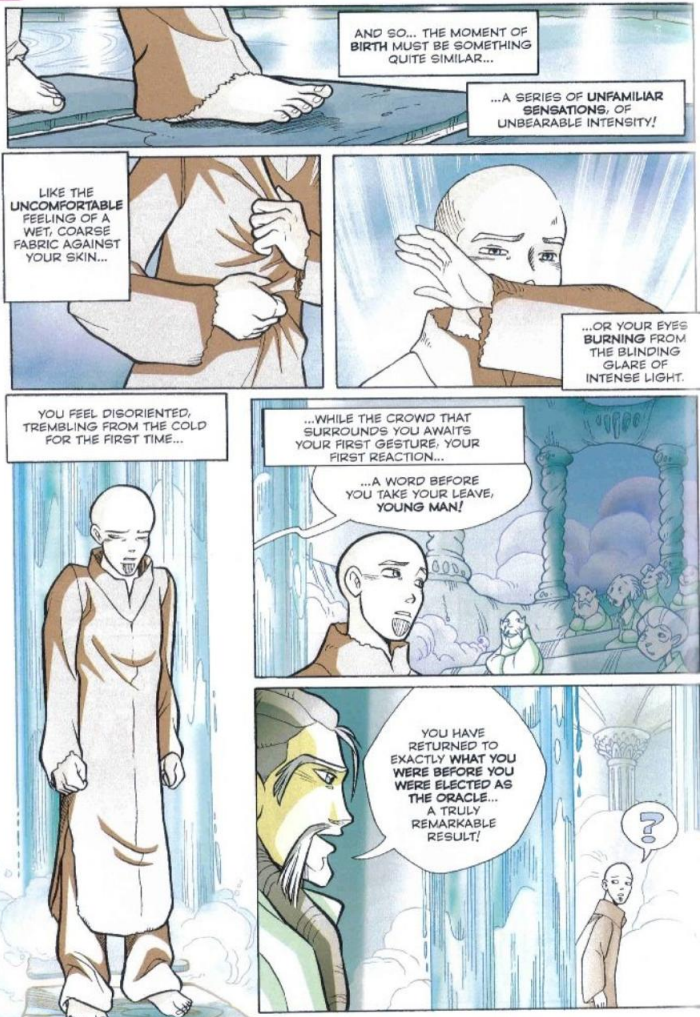

...YET TOO MANY WORDS HAVE ALREADY DISTURBED THE PEACE OF THIS PLACE, AND I DO NOT INTEND TO ADD ANYTHING FURTHER!
MY SOLE CONCERN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT OF MAINTAINING THE SERENITY OF KANDRAKAR... AS WELL AS THE EQUILIBRIUM IN ALL OF THE WORLDS PLACED UNDER ITS PROTECTION!
EVEN NOW IT IS WHAT IS CLOSEST TO MY HEART!
THEREFORE, MY ACTIONS WILL SPEAK FOR ME! AND WITH THIS, I SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE JUDGMENT OF THE CONGREGATION!
VERY WELL, THEN!
MAY THE DEFENDANT AND THE WITNESSES LEAVE THE HALL!
"IT IS TIME FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO MAKE ITS DECISION!"

CAN YOU SEE HIM, WILL? WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE'S JUST SITTING THERE WITH HIS EYES CLOSED! I THINK... I THINK HE'S MEDITATING...
DARN IT! WHY CAN'T WE GO IN AND TALK TO HIM?
I THINK WE'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH, DON'T YOU?
BUT... WHAT IF HE ISN'T FEELING WELL? IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES, I'D HAVE A MASSIVE HEADACHE!
HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T, IRMA! HE'S NOT JUST ANYBODY... HE'S THE ORACLE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT HE'S... HE'S A SUPERIOR BEING! MY GRANDMA EXPLAINED IT TO ME! AT MOST, HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE TIRED... HE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL HUNGER OR THIRST!
HE DOESN'T EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING? THEN WHAT THE HECK DOES HE DO ALL DAY LONG?
BUT I BET HE CAN SUFFER...


I LIED!
A MOMENT AGO, BEFORE THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION, FOR THE FIRST TIME I SAID SOMETHING THAT WASN'T TRUE TO MY ELDERS... AND TO MYSELF!
AND WITH THAT LIE, I EXPOSED MY HEART TO THE DARKNESS THAT ALREADY SURROUNDS THE FORTRESS!
MY SOUL IS TROUBLED... TORMENTED BY THE MEMORY OF THOSE DECEPTIVE WORDS THAT I DARED TO UTTER!
I SAID I THOUGHT OF THE SERENITY OF KANDRAKAR BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE, BUT THE TRUTH IS DIFFERENT!
EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIAL, I'VE BEEN CONSUMED BY A SINGLE QUESTION...
WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?

"I CAN SENSE THE **THREAT** SWIFTLY DRAWING **CLOSER**, BUT I CANNOT STOP IT, NOR FORESEE WHAT APPEARANCE IT WILL TAKE ON TO ATTACK ME..."
"...AT TIMES, IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A **CURSE** TO BE THE ORACLE."
AN ORACLE WHO IS **UNABLE TO GIVE** HIS GUARDIANS SUFFICIENT **EXPLANATIONS** TO JUSTIFY THEIR TASKS...
...AN ORACLE WHO ABANDONS THE DETACHED ROLE ENTRUSTED TO HIM AND USES HIS POWERS TO **INTERFERE** WITH THE COURSE OF EVENTS...
THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED ON AN **EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT** SO THAT THESE EVENTS WILL NOT BE REPEATED...
...THIS IS AN ORACLE WHO IS **UNWORTHY** OF BEARING THIS TITLE!
IT SENTENCES YOU TO **EXILE**, LORD OF KANDRAKAR... EXILE TO THE WORLD FROM WHICH YOU CAME, **BASILIADE!**
FAR TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST, YOU **HAVE ACTED INAPPROPRIATELY, AS A COMMON MAN!**
FORGIVE ME, ORACLE! I BEGGED ENDARNO TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS **PUBLIC HUMILIATION**... BUT MY WORDS WERE OF NO USE!

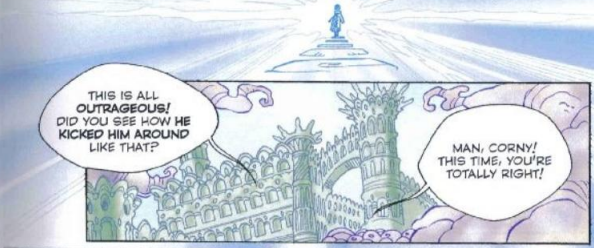

YOU WILL NOW RETURN TO BASILIADE IN YOUR NEW FORM... THAT OF A COMMON MORTAL!
...ALL YOUR POWERS WILL BE WASHED AWAY WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE FOUNTAIN OF SURRENDER!
THERE ARE BARRIERS THAT APPEAR INSURMOUNTABLE...
...YET THEY ARE CROSSED WITH SURPRISING SIMPLICITY...
...BECAUSE WHEN THINKING OF PAST PERILS, ONE HAS THE COURAGE TO FACE FUTURE UNCERTAINTIES.


AND SO... THE MOMENT OF BIRTH MUST BE SOMETHING QUITE SIMILAR...
...A SERIES OF UNFAMILIAR SENSATIONS, OF UNBEARABLE INTENSITY!
LIKE THE UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING OF A WET, COARSE FABRIC AGAINST YOUR SKIN...
...OR YOUR EYES BURNING FROM THE BLINDING GLARE OF INTENSE LIGHT.
YOU FEEL DISORIENTED, TREMBLING FROM THE COLD FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...WHILE THE CROWD THAT SURROUNDS YOU AWAITS YOUR FIRST GESTURE, YOUR FIRST REACTION...
...A WORD BEFORE YOU TAKE YOUR LEAVE, YOUNG MAN!
YOU HAVE RETURNED TO EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE BEFORE YOU WERE ELECTED AS THE ORACLE... A TRULY REMARKABLE RESULT!
?

IS THERE NOTHING YOU WISH TO SAY TO THE CONGREGATION BEFORE LEAVING THE FORTRESS FOREVER? LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD...
...TELL US YOUR NAME!
ENDARNO, I...
SIR... IF YOU KNOW MY NAME, PLEASE TELL ME, BECAUSE I...
...I CAN NO LONGER REMEMBER IT!
WHAT A PITY... BECAUSE I HAVE NO INTENTION OF REMINDING YOU OF YOUR NAME! NOR OF THE LIFE YOU ONCE HAD!
WHAT COULD A MAN WEARING SUCH CLOTHES BE? A FARMER? A CARPENTER? A STABLE BOY, PERHAPS?

POOR ORACLE! FROM THE STARS TO THE STABLES!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DISCOVER THIS FOR YOURSELF! YOU WILL CERTAINLY HAVE AMPLE TIME TO WANDER THE LANDS OF BASILIADE... IN SEARCH OF A PAST YOU NOW FEEL YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED!
BASILIADE! A NAME THAT DRIFTS THROUGH OBLIVION... THE ONLY CLUE TO GUIDE ME!
I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, NOR WHO I WAS... BUT I KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM, AND WHERE I AM ABOUT TO RETURN!
A WORLD POPULATED BY PEOPLE I HAVE OBSERVED FOR AGES... YET THIS DOES NOT MAKE THEM ANY LESS UNKNOWN TO ME!
NOW GO, AND DO NOT TURN BACK! A LONG JOURNEY AWAITS YOU...
...FAR FROM THIS PLACE AND ITS INHABITANTS!
YOU ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE...

"...AND A NEW LIFE **ALSO AWAITS KANDRAKAR!**"

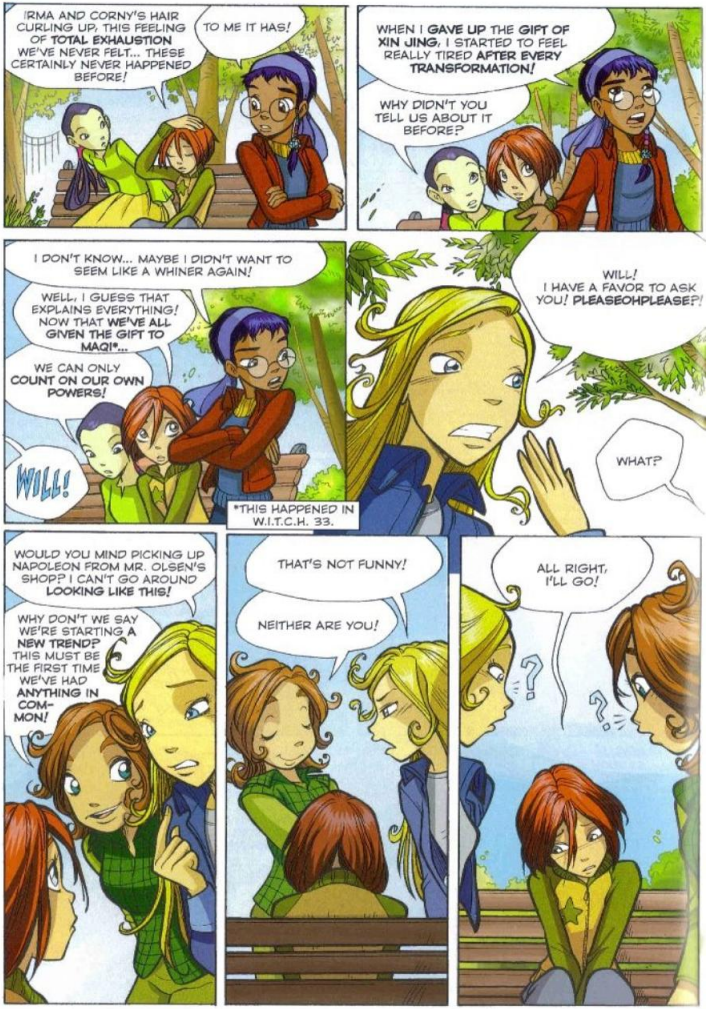


WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT I'D BE **ROOTING FOR THE ORACLE** ONE DAY?
DON'T CALL HIM THAT ANYMORE! **HE'S NOT THE ORACLE ANYMORE**, IRMA! AND ALL THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE...
YOU MUSTN'T FEEL GUILTY, TARANEE!

YOU WERE CALLED IN FOR A DIFFICULT TASK WHICH YOU CARRIED OUT WITH COURAGE, EACH OF YOU IN HER OWN WAY...
...BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS IMMEDIATELY, AND I FEAR THIS TIME, IT'LL TAKE LONGER THAN USUAL!
AND NOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

THE CONGREGATION IS ABOUT TO MEET ONCE AGAIN FOR A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY! KANDRAKAR CAN'T REMAIN WITHOUT A LEADER!
ENDARNO HAS CONVINCED MANY TO SUPPORT HIM. BUT THERE IS ALSO A GROUP OF ELDERS WHO ARE AGAINST HIS BEING ELECTED!
LET ME GUESS! YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THAT GROUP, AREN'T YOU?
WELL... LEADER ISN'T REALLY THE RIGHT WORD FOR IT, THOUGH...
HEY, HOLD ON! YOU SAID ENDARNO COULD BE ELECTED THE NEW RULER OF KANDRAKAR! WHICH MEANS THERE'S GOING TO BE A REAL ELECTION AND...
YES, WILL! I AM ONE OF THE CANDIDATES!
WAY COOL! A GRANDMA ORACLE! A GRANDMA ORACLE!
GREAT! I BET OUR TRIPS TO KANDRAKAR WILL START BEING LESS WORK AND MORE PLEASURE!
CONSIDER IT THE OFFICIAL CREATION OF YOUR FAN CLUB!
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOUR ENTHUSIASM! BUT IT'S TOO SOON TO CELEBRATE...
"IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE FORTRESS..."

"...HEATHERFIELD IS READY TO WELCOME BACK ITS YOUNG INHABITANTS!"
WHEW! DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS AREN'T EXHAUSTED!
I... I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF THE ORACLE! I FEEL SO RESPONSIBLE!
DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF! YOU HEARD YAN LIN. IF SOMEONE SHOULD FEEL GUILTY FOR TREATING THE ORACLE BADLY, IT'S CERTAINLY NOT YOU!
RIGHT! THE BAD GUY HERE IS OUR NEW PAL ENDARNO...
BUT I'M SURE HE'LL PAY FOR IT! MY MOM ALWAYS SAYS THAT SOONER OR LATER PEOPLE ALWAYS GET CAUGHT UP IN THEIR OWN TANGLES!
INTERESTING THEORY! AND SEEING THE STATE OF YOUR HAIR NOW, SHE'S PROBABLY RIGHT!
YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR REFLECTION YET, MISS PERFECT! OR SHOULD I SAY MISS PORCUPINE?
WHY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HAIR?
AAARGH! I MUST LOOK TERRIBLE! WHY IS IT ALL MESSED UP?
IT'S REBELLING AGAINST ITS MASTER! I'D DO THE SAME IN ITS POSITION!
UM... SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON...
WHAT? THOSE TWO BICKERING? SEEMS PERFECTLY NORMAL!


IRMA AND CORNY'S HAIR CURLING UP, THIS FEELING OF TOTAL EXHAUSTION WE'VE NEVER FELT... THESE CERTAINLY NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
TO ME IT HAS!
WHEN I GAVE UP THE GIFT OF XIN JING, I STARTED TO FEEL REALLY TIRED AFTER EVERY TRANSFORMATION!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT IT BEFORE?
I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE I DIDN'T WANT TO SEEM LIKE A WHINER AGAIN!
WELL, I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING! NOW THAT WE'VE ALL GIVEN THE GIFT TO MAQI*...
WE CAN ONLY COUNT ON OUR OWN POWERS!
WILL!
*THIS HAPPENED IN W.I.T.C.H. 33.
WILL! I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU! PLEASEOHPLEASE?!
WHAT?
WOULD YOU MIND PICKING UP NAPOLEON FROM MR. OLSEN'S SHOP? I CAN'T GO AROUND LOOKING LIKE THIS!
WHY DON'T WE SAY WE'RE STARTING A NEW TREND? THIS MUST BE THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HAD ANYTHING IN COM-MON!
THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
NEITHER ARE YOU!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO!
?
?

"BUT REMEMBER WE HAVE TO TALK LATER ON! IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT!"
JUST WHAT WE NEEDED, SIDE EFFECTS FROM GIVING UP THE GIFT OF XIN JING!
SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS FAR AWAY FROM EVERYTHING AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE!
SUDDENLY, LIFE'S GOTTEN TO BE SO UNBEARABLY DIFFICULT...
...AND IT'S NOT JUST FROM BEING A W.I.T.C.H.!
TRILLINN
WILL!
WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!
CORNELIA SENT ME TO PICK UP NAPOLEON!
HERE HE IS! HE WAS A BRAVE LITTLE KITTY!
GOOD.
?
!
MEOW!

...AND SHE WALKED OFF WITHOUT EVEN SAYING GOODBYE?
YEAH...
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, MAN! YOU KNOW HOW GIRLS ARE LIKE!
YOU'D NEED A DEGREE TO LEARN HOW TO UNDERSTAND THEM!
I GUESS SO... BUT I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO IT!
I MEAN... IF I'D DONE SOMETHING WRONG, I COULD ACCEPT IT, BUT I DIDN'T...
HEY, FISHMAN HAS FINALLY COME UP FOR AIR!
PLING PLENG
LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE! HE'S ALL BASKETBALL, FRIENDS, AND SURFING!
HOW'S THE WATER?
A LITTLE COLD, BUT THE WAVES WEREN'T BAD AT ALL!
SO WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
OUR FRIEND HERE WANTED SOME ADVICE ABOUT A TRICKY SUBJECT... WOMEN!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? I'VE GOT TWO OF THEM AT HOME! I COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THEM!
WELL, WHEN IT'S READY, LET ME READ THE CHAPTER ABOUT YOUR LIL' SIS!
NIGEL!
MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY SHE BROKE OFF OUR DATE AT THE LAST MINUTE WITH SOME LOUSY EXCUSE!
HMM... MAYBE BECAUSE SHE JUST COULDN'T COME UP WITH A DECENT EXCUSE!
COME HERE! CHANGED YOUR STYLE, HUH?
YEAH, BUT IT MIGHT NOT LAST LONG. HEY! CUT IT OUT!
SO TARANEE STOOD YOU UP. HUH? YOU'RE OFF TO A GOOD START...
I BET SHE BAILED ON ME SO SHE COULD GO OUT WITH HER FRIENDS...
HEAR THAT, MATT? MAYBE SHE WAS WITH YOUR REDHEAD!
COME ON, LEAVE HIM ALONE! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S BEING SENTIMENTAL?
IS THAT A NEW SONG, MATT?
IT'S NO USE, PETE! YOU WON'T GET A WORD OUT OF HIM. HE LIKES TO BE MYSTERIOUS!
NICE, JOEL! WITHOUT MEANING TO, YOU NAILED IT ON THE HEAD! THIS SONG IS ALL ABOUT MYSTERY...
A BAFFLING AND FASCINATING MYSTERY!

End of Episode.